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MALMESBURY

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

H. T. HARDING, THE ABBEY PRESS, MALMESBURY.

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MUNDENS,

MALMESBURY,

April 24th, 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MALMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925. This, being a Survey Report, deals with the public health of your District for five years: 1921 to 1925 inclusive.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(1) Area ... 58356 acres.

(2) Population at Census of 1921, 8480.

The population is distributed in the various parishes of your District as follows.

Parish.	*Area (acres).*	*Persons.*	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Private Families.*	*Population in private families.*	*Dwelling Houses occupied.*	*Rooms per Person.*
Alderton ...	1637	129	62	67	31	129	31	1.33
Brinkworth ...	6075	932	461	471	235	932	233	1.32
Brokenborough...	2614	332	177	155	55	294	55	1.15
Charlton ...	4766	423	220	203	104	412	104	1.52
Crudwell ...	4899	618	316	302	150	618	150	1.20
Dauntsey ...	3258	357	171	186	85	357	80	1.36
Easton Grey ...	1061	78	33	45	24	77	24	1.99
Foxley ...	1135	65	36	29	16	65	15	1.25
Garsdon ...	1128	133	66	67	34	132	34	1.20
Great Somerford	1660	421	222	199	113	421	110	1.46
Hankerton ...	2203	243	112	131	61	243	61	1.20
Hullavington ...	3303	478	230	248	129	478	129	1.30
Lea ...	1778	414	207	207	100	373	100	1.34
Little Somerford	1210	302	146	156	70	302	68	1.25
Luckington ...	2186	293	144	149	84	293	84	1.53
Malmesbury (St. Paul Without)	7174	952	413	539	233	952	231	1.47
Minety ...	3778	705	358	347	192	705	192	1.44
Norton ...	928	89	43	46	20	89	20	1.56
Oaksey ...	1827	308	158	150	90	308	89	1.32
Sherston ...	4725	1070	536	534	295	1070	293	1.41
Sopworth ...	1011	138	67	71	29	138	29	1.38
Total	58356	8480	4178	4302	2149	8350	2132	1.37

(3) The rateable value of the District is £96,950, and the sum produced by a penny rate £233.

(4) The occupation of the whole of your District is entirely agricultural.

(5) Vital Statistics.

		Total	M	F	
Births	Legitimate	120	62	58	Birth Rate 15.
	Illegitimate	7	7	0	
Deaths		116	59	57	Death Rate 13.7.

Deaths of infants under one year of age

Total 8. M. 4. F. 4.

Infantile Mortality Rate 62.2.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth, 0.

Of the 116 deaths during the past year no less than 21 were due to cancer.

The birth rates and the death rates for the past five years are given for comparison in the following table,

	Birth rate.	Death rate.
1921	19.2	10.6
1922	18.8	11.8
1923	17.3	14.3
1924	15.8	10.8
1925	15	13.7

It will be noticed that the birth rate shows a steady decline during the period under review.

General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals.

(1) Isolation.

During the year 1925 an agreement has been made between the Chippenham Urban and Rural Districts and the Malmesbury Urban and Rural Districts for the provision of a Joint Isolation Hospital.

The Hospital is situated in the Chippenham Rural Area and will be enlarged to suit the increased accommodation. Up to the time of this agreement an arrangement was in force whereby cases from your area could be admitted to the Chippenham Joint Isolation Hospital.

During the year 1925 one case was sent from your District.

(2) Small-Pox.

In the event of a case of small-pox arising in your District arrangements have been made with the Swindon Isolation Hospital Board to remove and treat such case at their Small-pox Hospital.

(3) Maternity.

The Malmesbury Maternity Home, subsidized by the Wiltshire County Council, receives cases from your District.

(4) Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance for infectious cases is kept at the Chlppenham Isolation Hospital and is available for your District.

(4) Professional Nursing in the Home.

The whole area of your District is covered by the various Nursing Associations existing therein. These are as follows.

(a) Malmesbury District Nurse (supported by the Malmesbury Cottage Hospital Committee), working within a radius of three miles from Malmesbury.
Midwifery Cases 17. School Inspections and Home Visits 77.

(b) Brinkworth and Dauntsey Nursing Association.
Midwifery Cases 21. School Inspections and Home Visits 77.

(c) Crudwell, Hankerton and Minety Nursing Association.
Midwifery Cases 18. School Inspections and Home Visits 37.

(d) Hullavington Nursing Association.
Midwifery Cases 13. School Inspections and Home Visits 41.

(e) The Somerfords Nursing Association.

Midwifery Cases 11, School Inspections and Home Visits 41.

(f) The Sherston Nursing Association.

Midwifery Cases 32. School Inspections and Home Visits 73.

(g) The Kemble Nursing Association (for the Parish of Oaksey).

Midwifery Cases 5. School Inspections and Home Visits 2.

Total for 1925—Midwifery Cases 117.
School Inspections and Home Visits 348.

I cannot overrate the work done by the District Nurses maintained by these Associations. Not only is their help invaluable in cases of childbirth but I am convinced that the health and cleanliness of the school children have improved to a marked degree.

Sanitary Circumstances.

(1) Water.

No changes in the water supply of your District have occurred in the past five years.

A certain number of the parishes in your District have a supply of water distributed by means of stand pipes in the village. These include Easton Grey, Brokenborough, Dauntsey, Hullavington, Malmesbury St. Paul Without, Sherston, Sopworth. In other parishes the supply is from wells or pits. In the Parish of Charlton, where the well water is not of a good character, a supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes is distributed daily by means of a cart.

(2) Scavenging.

There is no scavenging system in your District nor, in my opinion, is one necessary except possibly in the Parish of Sherston.

(3) Closet Accommodation.

There are still a number of insanitary cesspits in your District but these are gradually being replaced by pail-closets.

(4) Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports that ten statutory notices have been served to abate nuisances during 1925. These were all complied with.

HOUSING.

The housing accommodation is, in the main, adequate for the needs of the population. There has been no change in the population during the past five years nor do I anticipate any increase; on the contrary the population of your District is steadily declining.

There is no evidence of any overcrowding in the District.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)	8
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:	
(i) By the Local Authority	0
(ii) By other bodies or persons	4

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	62
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 27

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 15

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 13

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... 0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 7

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are 212 dairies and cowsheds registered in your District. During the year seven notices were served under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1922. Six of these were complied with and one is outstanding

A Veterinary Inspector has been appointed by your Council whose services are called upon when tubercular disease among cattle is suspected.

No application for a licence for the sale of milk under special designations has been made to your Council.

Meat.—Slaughter-Houses.

There are four slaughter-houses registered in the District. These are periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and are in a satisfactory condition.

Two licences for occasional slaughtering have been granted. Notices of occasional slaughtering are sent to the Sanitary Inspector who inspects the carcases. In doubtful cases he calls in a Veterinary Surgeon to give an opinion of the soundness or otherwise of the carcase.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during 1925.

Erysipelas.—Two cases. One at Brinkworth and one at Brokenborough.

Scarlet Fever.—Two cases at Alderton. One case was removed to Bristol Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria.—One case at Lea. This case was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Chippenham.

Pneumonia.—Six cases.

Below is a list of the total number of cases notified during the past five years.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small-Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	66	48	9
Diphtheria	10	8	0
Enteric Fever	2	1	0
Pneumonia	25	0	4

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the year eleven cases were notified. These were at Sherston, four cases, Sopworth, two cases, and one each at Charlton, Crudwell, Little Somerford, Luckington and Minety.

There were three deaths from this disease during the year.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the year three cases were notified, one each at Alderton, Brokenborough and Charlton.

Two deaths were registered as due to this disease.

In the past five years there have been notified 51 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 19 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified in St. Paul Without and removed to Gorse Hill Hospital, Swindon, for treatment.

Venereal Disease.

Cases of venereal disease can receive free treatment under the County Council scheme at either the Bath or Swindon Clinics.

Laboratory Work.

For some years bacteriological work has been carried out at the expense of your Council by the Clinical Research Association of London. During the year the Wiltshire County Council prepared a scheme whereby examinations could be carried out at their expense at the Central Laboratory, Bath. I advised that the change should be made and since the end of October, 1925, all specimens have been sent to Bath under the County scheme.

Twenty-four examinations were made during the year; seventeen by the Clinical Research Association and seven by the Bath Central Laboratory.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD M. MOORE, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.